

Treasury Department,

BUREAU OF THE MINT,

Washington, D. C., July 8th, 1890.

Dear Colonel:

The legislative act has not yet been approved and I have not received a copy of it, but I will say that your appropriations are the same with the exception of your contingent appropriation, which was reduced to \$80,000.

This reduction was made without my knowledge or without the knowledge of the Secretary, in the House, and as soon as I learned of it I prepared a letter for the Secretary to sign asking that the amount be restored to \$100,000. This was done in the Senate.

I addressed a letter to Senator Cameron asking him to look after the matter, but in the conference committee of the two houses the amount was reduced to \$80,000, and the bill was so passed.

I presume the reduction was based on the amount expended during the last two fiscal years, viz: \$70,295.21 in 1888, and \$70,815.77 in 1889. The amount expended is an unanswerable argument in regard to the amount which they are called on to appropriate.

I may say, however, that it will make no important difference, as any deficiency can be made good so long as we coin standard silver

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dollars from that fund, but doubtless no deficiency will arise.

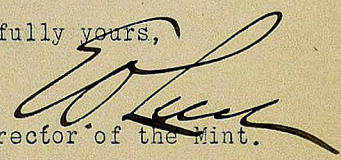
You have doubtless seen the silver bill as agreed on by the conference committee. I am very glad that it continues the coinage for another year, especially as it will prevent the discharge of the adjusters. It is probable that a very large portion of the silver purchased will be at your mint, so you will have to look around for safe storage for the bars. If additional vault facilities will be required you must let me know promptly, and where the best place to locate them would be.

As soon as I can find an opportunity I hope to run over to the mint to confer with you on this subject, but I would like you to bear it in mind.

I presume that we will need storage at your mint for at least 30,000,000 ounces of silver a year, say 4,000 cubic feet of storage room.

I would like you, at your leisure, to prepare an estimate of your present storage capacity provided that we should store all the silver dollars in the new vault now under the joint seal of the Treasurer, the Superintendent of the Mint and myself.

Respectfully yours,



Director of the Mint.

NARA RG104, Entry 1, Box 163

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Bureau of the Mint,
Washington, D.C.
July 8, 1890

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E.O. Leech, Director of the Mint